

Presbytery of East Iowa Peacemaking Task Force
Saint Andrew in Iowa City
April 30, 2019, 4:30 P.M.

Present: Lisa Ross-Thedens, George El Khoury, Kitch Shatzer, Lemi Tilahun, and Myrna Farraj.
Excused: Robin Kash, Paul Uzel, Marta Pumroy, and Paul Meyer

We opened with a devotional about serving humbly for our Lord led by Myrna. The last minutes were not available at this time. (Robin is looking for them)

Ecumenical Advocacy Days: We were happy to have supported Lemi Tilahun attendance at Ecumenical Advocacy Days in D.C. and were doubly happy to have him in person to report. The theme of the conference was *Troubling the Waters*. Lemi's enthusiasm soon lighted *us up*, as he talked about the importance of getting involved. He is a young man and he has a burden for our churches to reach young people where they are, not expecting them to conform to *the way we have always done it*. His prime burden is the refugee displacement problems in our world. A lot of what we see today has to do with what we did years ago when our goal was to make the world like us. We need to change! To look for ways to get involved and get issues to stand out. Some of the issues the EAD were looking at besides the displacement problem were the environmental issues, the social and justice, hunger and human trafficking issues. Lemi wants us to support our youth by going to where they are, letting them know we care and support them through everything - even when they're gone from us for a time period. Invite! Empower! Invest in individuals! The process for our future requires our willingness to get outside our BOX. We need more young people - like Lemi - if we can see our world changing to what God intended it to be.

Interfaith Group: Myrna reported on the Faith Friends, which is a group of Moslem, Buddhist, and Christian women. Members at the last meeting spoke of what earlier significant happenings shaped their lives. It was obvious they were contributing something from their heart. At our next meeting we will share more of our lives with each - something like a *Show and Tell*.

Peacemaking Banner: Susan Barnes' beautiful banner (quilt) of "Peacemakers-create bridges, cross bridges, keep up bridges, because Christ is our Peace" is traveling to churches in our Presbytery. It is now at the Farmington Church. It is for any church that would like to display it for a time - regardless if they did or did not contribute to its making.

International Peacemaker: We will be asking for the time around the September 21 Presbytery The choices we will request are ones from Costa Rica, Palestine and Myanmar. After reviewing our choices we concluded the selections was excellent and any of them would be great for our Presbytery.

Boys' School in Pakistan: Both Lisa and Kitch were on the trip for the grand opening of the boys' school the middle of November. The Director, Veda, made a grand tour earlier this spring to touch base with the churches that had supported the building of the Boys' School and to raise more money as the costs came in higher than planned - the roof currently in place is only a temporary one .

March White Privilege Conference in Cedar Rapids and GA Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation Special Committee are to be considered coming up when Marta is at our next meeting to report on them

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 30, 4:30 pm at Saint Andrew.

Devotions by Kitch.

These minutes respectively submitted by Myrna Farraj